This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	Protein kinase C β (PRKCB)	<p>Mouse studies suggest PRKCB inhibitors could help treat MS. PRKCB can induce hyperpermeability of the blood brain barrier (BBB). In an experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) mouse model of relapsed-remitting MS, the PRKCB inhibitor enzastaurin decreased migration of proinflammatory T cells across the BBB and decreased demyelination of spinal cord neurons compared with vehicle. Next steps could include testing the long-term efficacy and safety of PRKCB inhibitors in the EAE models.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co.'s Arxxant ruboxistaurin (LY333531), a synthetic PRKCB inhibitor, is under review to treat diabetic retinopathy. In May, the pharma discontinued development of enzastaurin (LY317615) after the synthetic inhibitor of PRKCB and protein kinase B (PKB; PKBA; AKT; AKT1) missed the primary endpoint in a Phase III trial to treat relapsed or refractory diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL).</p> <p>SciBX 6(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.986 Published online Sept. 19, 2013</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Lanz, T.V. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 19, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1302569110</p> <p>Contact: Michael Platten, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany e-mail: michael.platten@med.uni-heidelberg.de</p>